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Message Text

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ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 PA-01

USIA-06 PRS-01 SP-02 /028 W
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FM AMEMBASSY QUITO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1076
USIA WASHDC
INFO AMCONSUL GUAYAQUIL

C O N F I D E N T I A L QUITO 5543

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PINT PROOP ENRG EC
SUBJ: ECUADOREAN MEDIA AIR BRIBERY CHARGES

1. SUMMARY: A LEFTIST ECUADOREN MAGAZINE HAS SEIZED UPON AND AMPLIFIED CHARGES OF BRIBERY TO INTERFERE IN INTERNAL POLITICAL AFFARIS, WHICH FIRST APPEARED IN A BRITISH PUBLICATIONM BOTH QUITO DAILY NEWSPAPERS, INCLUDING ONE WHICH REPORTEDLY RECIEVED SOME OF THE FUNDS, REJECTED THE CHARGES. END SUMMARYM

2. "LATIN AMERICA," A LONDON-BASED WEEKLY, WAS QUOTTED BY LOCAL MEDIA FROM ITS JUNE 18 EDITION REPORTING TEXACO-GULF HAD PUMPED $280,000 INTO ECUADOR TO FINANCE A CAMPAIGN DESIGNED TO BREAK THE GOE-RUMANIAN OIL ACCORD. IT ADDED THAT A "U.S. CIGARETTE COMAPNY" FINANCED A CAMPAIGN TO DISCREDIT FORMER GOE MINISTER OF NATURAL RESOURCES, ADMIRAL GUSTAVE JARRIN AMPUDIA.

3. THE BENEFICIARY OF MOST OF THE TEXACO-GULF FUNDS WAS THE "GRANDA CENTENO PRESS EMPIRE," THE ARTICLE SAID. ANTONIL GRANDA CENTENO IS A WEALTHY BUSINESSMAN WHO OWNS THE QUITO DAILY "EL TIEMPO", CHANNEL 4 AND RADIO COLON.

4. "NUEVA, " A LEFTIST MONTHLY MAGAZIEN, PICKED UP THE ARTICLE TO SHOW WHY COL. RICHILIEU LEVOYER, A PROMINENT MEMBER OF
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THE GGROUP OF "COLONELS" SOMETIMES PRESSURING THE SUPREME

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COUNCIL, WAS RECENTLY REMOVED FROM HIS POST AS MINISTER OF GOVERNMENT. "NUEVA" CITED THE ARTICLE STATEING THAT LEVOYER AND THE COLONELS MET WITH THE COUNCIL TO DEMAND NATIONALIZATION OF THE CONSORTIUM AND REEJECT ITS DEMAND FOR AN INCREASE IN THE CALCUALTED COST PER BARREL. "NUEVA" SAID HE SHOWED PHOTOSTATIC COPIES OF DOCUMENTS SHOWING TEXACO-GULF HAD GIVEN $280,000 TO A VELASQUISTA BUSINESS EXECUTIVE TO FINANCE PUBLIC OPPO-SITION TO THE CEPE-ROMPETROL AGREEMENT.

5. "EL TIEMPO" REJECTED THE ACCUSATIONS JULY 30 IN AN EDITORIAL DEFENDING ITS INTEGIRTY AND LABELING "LATIN AMERICA" AS A FROEING SCANDAL SHEET WHICH LEVELED THE CHARRGES IRRESPONSIBLY AND WITHOUT DOCUMENTARY PROOF. IT FURTHER DEMANDED THAT THE GOE ORDER THE DOCUMENTS EXHIBITED THAT LEVOYER WAS REPORTED TO HAVE IN HIS POSSESSION.

6. "EL COMERCIO" OF QUITO CHANNELGED THE ACCUSATIONS IN AN EDITORIAL AUGUST 2, SAYING THEY COMPROMISE "IN GENERAL ALL MEDIA WHICH ARE NOT SUBJECT TO THE DESIGNS OF INTERNATIONAL COMMUNISM, WHICH ALWAYS PREVAIL OVER THE INTERESTS OF THE NATION." IT ADDED: "IF THERE WERE A VESTIGE OF TRUTH (TO THE CHARGES), COL. LEVOYER AND HIS ADVISORS HAD THE DUTY TO DENOUNCE AND FULLY INVESTIGATE TO ESTABLISH RESPONSIBILITY."

7. COMMENT: THE "NUEVA" ARTICLE APPEARS TO BE ONE MORE PHASE IN THE LEFTIST CAMPAIGN OT GAIN SUPPORT FOR NATIONALIZATION OF THE CONSORTIUM WITHOUT INDEMINZATION.
BLOOMFIELD

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: BRIBERY, PRESS COMMENTS, ALLEGATIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 04 AUG 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: ShawDG
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976QUITO05543
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760301-0177
From: QUITO
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760887/aaaacyww.tel
Line Count: 89
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION ARA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: ShawDG
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 20 JUL 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <20 JUL 2004 by SmithRJ>; APPROVED <02 NOV 2004 by ShawDG>
Review Markings:

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US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: ECUADOREAN MEDIA AIR BRIBERY CHARGES
TAGS: PINT, PROP, ENRG, EC, TEXACO-GULF
To: STATE USIA
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006